



House of Representatives

General Assembly

File No. 546

February Session, 2012

Substitute House Bill No. 5507

House of Representatives, April 19, 2012

The Committee on Judiciary reported through REP. FOX, G. of the 146th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the House, that the substitute bill ought to pass.

AN ACT CONCERNING THE ISSUANCE OF ENHANCED RECOGNITION NUMBER PLATES.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Subdivision (74) of section 14-1 of the 2012 supplement to
2 the general statutes, as amended by section 37 of public act 10-110 and
3 section 61 of public act 11-213, is repealed and the following is
4 substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective January 1, 2013*):

5 (74) "Registration number" means the identifying number, symbol
6 or letters, or [both] combination of such number, symbol or letters,
7 assigned by the commissioner to a motor vehicle;

8 Sec. 2. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) (a) For the purposes of this
9 section and section 3 of this act:

10 (1) "Enhanced recognition number plate" means a general
11 distinguishing number plate on which is displayed a registration
12 number which contains a commonly recognized symbol that is

13 randomly assigned, which symbol may include, but need not be
14 limited to, a star, diamond or triangle;

15 (2) "Number plate" has the meaning provided in section 14-1 of the
16 general statutes, as amended by this act; and

17 (3) "Registration number" has the meaning provided in section 14-1
18 of the general statutes, as amended by this act.

19 (b) Not later than November 1, 2012, the Commissioner of Motor
20 Vehicles shall design an enhanced recognition number plate, after
21 consultation with the Commissioner of Emergency Services and Public
22 Protection, to improve the ability of children and other individuals to
23 recall and describe to a law enforcement agency pursuant to an
24 investigation the registration number displayed on a number plate
25 observed by the child or individual. The commissioner shall issue such
26 enhanced recognition number plates pursuant to section 3 of this act.

27 Sec. 3. (NEW) (*Effective January 1, 2013*) (a) The Commissioner of
28 Motor Vehicles shall issue enhanced recognition number plates for
29 new registrations and renewal registrations issued on and after
30 January 2, 2013, in accordance with a schedule established by the
31 commissioner in such quantities as the commissioner deems feasible
32 within the funds and personnel available. The commissioner shall
33 issue such enhanced recognition number plates for passenger,
34 combination and commercial registrations and other registrations for
35 which general distinguishing number plates are issued. Each enhanced
36 recognition number plate shall bear the words "Constitution State" and
37 "Connecticut". The commissioner shall issue two enhanced recognition
38 number plates for each registration. No enhanced recognition number
39 plates shall be required for any registration for which special number
40 plates are issued.

41 (b) No additional charge shall be made for the issuance of such new
42 or replacement enhanced recognition number plates pursuant to this
43 section.

44 (c) The owner or lessee of each registered motor vehicle who is
45 issued two enhanced recognition number plates by the Commissioner
46 of Motor Vehicles shall display such plates on such motor vehicle as
47 provided in section 14-18 of the general statutes, as amended by this
48 act. A violation of this subsection shall be an infraction.

49 Sec. 4. Section 14-18 of the general statutes is repealed and the
50 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective January 1, 2013*):

51 (a) (1) Each motor vehicle for which one number plate has been
52 issued shall, while in use or operation upon any public highway,
53 display in a conspicuous place at the rear of such vehicle the number
54 plate. The commissioner may issue a sticker denoting the expiration
55 date of the registration. Such sticker shall be displayed in such place on
56 the vehicle as the commissioner may direct. Such sticker may contain
57 the corresponding letters and numbers of the registration and number
58 plate issued by the commissioner.

59 (2) Each motor vehicle for which two number plates have been
60 issued shall, while in use or operation upon any public highway,
61 display in a conspicuous place at the front and the rear of such vehicle
62 the number plates. The commissioner may issue a sticker denoting the
63 expiration date of the registration. Such sticker shall be displayed in
64 such place on the vehicle as the commissioner may direct. Such sticker
65 may contain the corresponding letters, [and] numbers and symbols of
66 the number plate issued by the commissioner.

67 (b) Repealed by 1969, P.A. 247, S. 1.

68 (c) Official number plates when displayed upon motor vehicles shall
69 be entirely unobscured and the [numerals and] letters, numbers and
70 symbols thereon shall be plainly legible at all times. Such number
71 plates shall be horizontal, and shall be fastened so as not to swing and,
72 during the time when a motor vehicle is required to display lights, the
73 rear number plate shall be so illuminated as to be legible at a distance
74 of fifty feet. Nothing may be affixed to a motor vehicle or to the official
75 number plates displayed on such vehicle that obscures or impairs the

76 visibility of any information on such number plates. Not more than
77 one number plate shall be displayed on the front or rear of any motor
78 vehicle in operation upon the public highways of the state; provided
79 any motor vehicle may, upon permission of the commissioner, display
80 more than one number plate in front or rear, subject to such conditions
81 as the commissioner prescribes. If any number plate supplied by the
82 commissioner is lost, or if the registered number thereon becomes
83 mutilated or illegible, the owner of or the person in control of the
84 motor vehicle for which such number plate was furnished shall
85 immediately place a temporary number plate bearing said registration
86 number upon such motor vehicle, which temporary number plate shall
87 conform to the regular number plate and shall be displayed as nearly
88 as possible as herein provided for such regular number plate; and such
89 owner shall, within forty-eight hours after such loss or mutilation of
90 the number plate, give notice thereof to the commissioner and apply
91 for a new number plate. The commissioner may issue a permit to
92 operate with such temporary plate and shall supply new number
93 plates upon payment of the fee therefor as provided in section 14-50a.
94 Upon receipt of such new number plates and new certificate, the
95 remaining old number plate, if any, and certificate shall be
96 surrendered to the commissioner.

97 (d) All number plates shall be the property of the state and no title
98 therein shall pass to any person registering a motor vehicle under the
99 provisions of this chapter. The owner of any registered motor vehicle
100 which is not reregistered at the end of a registration period shall,
101 within ten days, return the number plates thereof to the commissioner.
102 Any person who sells a motor vehicle pursuant to section 14-150 or 49-
103 61 shall, within ten days of such sale, return to the commissioner any
104 number plates displayed on the vehicle or which come into such
105 person's possession in connection with such sale. When the
106 commissioner issues a new type of number plate for use by all persons
107 registering motor vehicles, the obsolete number plates shall become
108 the property of the registrant upon the expiration date.

109 (e) The commissioner may issue a number plate inscribed with the

110 legend "SAMPLE". Such number plate shall not be displayed on any
111 motor vehicle or used as official registration marker plates. The
112 commissioner may impose a fee for the issuance of such number plate.
113 Such fee shall be sufficient to cover the cost of manufacturing and
114 issuing such number plate.

115 (f) No person shall wilfully damage or destroy any number plate.

116 (g) Violation of any provision of subsection (a), (c), (d), (e) or (f) of
117 this section shall be an infraction.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>January 1, 2013</i>	14-1(74)
Sec. 2	<i>from passage</i>	New section
Sec. 3	<i>January 1, 2013</i>	New section
Sec. 4	<i>January 1, 2013</i>	14-18

Statement of Legislative Commissioners:

Section 4 was added for consistency with the general statutes.

JUD *Joint Favorable Subst.*

The following Fiscal Impact Statement and Bill Analysis are prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for purposes of information, summarization and explanation and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose. In general, fiscal impacts are based upon a variety of informational sources, including the analyst's professional knowledge. Whenever applicable, agency data is consulted as part of the analysis, however final products do not necessarily reflect an assessment from any specific department.

OFA Fiscal Note**State Impact:**

Agency Affected	Fund-Effect	FY 13 \$	FY 14 \$
Department of Motor Vehicles	TF - Cost	See Below	See Below

Note: TF=Transportation Fund

Municipal Impact: None

Explanation

The bill requires the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) to create and issue "enhanced recognition number plates" for new and renewed registrations and specifies DMV to implement the provisions of the bill within available appropriations/resources. However, if the bill were to be implemented there would be an estimated total cost to the Special Transportation Fund of \$15.5 million to DMV. The estimate is based on the number of registrations in the state in 2009 (3.1 million) and the \$5 cost of producing a set of plates. The fiscal year(s) in which the cost will be incurred will depend on the schedule of registration set by DMV.

The Out Years

The fiscal year(s) in which the \$15.5 million will be incurred will depend on the schedule of registration set by DMV.

Sources: United States Census Bureau

OLR Bill Analysis**sHB 5507*****AN ACT CONCERNING THE ISSUANCE OF ENHANCED RECOGNITION NUMBER PLATES.*****SUMMARY:**

This bill requires the motor vehicles commissioner to design and issue license plates including symbols, as well as numbers and letters ("enhanced recognition number plates"). It prohibits the commissioner from charging an additional fee for these plates and exempts special number plates (e.g., plates issued to disabled veterans or special interest plates) from this requirement. It makes failure to display the enhanced plates an infraction, conforming the penalty to current law for improperly displaying license plates, and makes other conforming changes.

EFFECTIVE DATE: January 1, 2013, except the requirement that the commissioner design the plates is effective on passage.

ENHANCED RECOGNITION NUMBER PLATES

Under the bill, an enhanced recognition number plate is a "general distinguishing number plate" displaying a registration number that contains a randomly assigned, commonly recognized symbol, such as a star, diamond, or triangle. (Although the bill requires the commissioner to issue these plates for passenger, combination, and commercial vehicle registrations, by law, "general distinguishing number plates" are number plates typically issued, instead of individual plates, to motor vehicle dealers, repairers, and others to register all the vehicles they own or have in their custody.)

The bill requires the commissioner, by November 1, 2012, to design these enhanced plates to improve the ability of children and others to recall and describe the plates to law enforcement agencies. She must

consult with the emergency services and public protection commissioner in doing so.

The commissioner must issue the enhanced plates for new and renewed registrations starting January 2, 2013, according to a schedule she establishes, and in a quantity she deems feasible using available funds and staff. She must issue the plates for passenger, combination, and commercial registrations, and other registrations for which general distinguishing number plates are issued (e.g., dealers and repairers, municipalities).

She must issue two enhanced plates per registration, and each such plate must bear the words "Constitution State," and "Connecticut." Owners or lessees of registered vehicles who receive these plates must display them according to law.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Judiciary Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 42 Nay 0 (04/02/2012)